

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES.

ATF CERTIFIED EXPLOSIVES SPECIALIST PROGRAM WELCOMES STATE AND LOCAL BOMB SQUAD TECHNICIANS

SUBMITTED BY: SPECIAL AGENT HUGH O'CONNOR, CES PROGRAM MANAGER, NCETA



Explosives Specialist Certification
July 06th – July 24th 2015
Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama
45025





Last year, ATF'S National Center for Explosives Training and Research (NCETR) Special Agent in Charge Don Robinson presented to the National Bomb Squad Commanders Advisory Board (NBSCAB) the opportunity for eight state and local bomb technicians to participate in the entire ATF Certified Explosive Specialist (CES) program at no cost to their respective agencies.

Each region of the NBSCAB selected and vetted two technicians and the first eight began their training at the three-week CES Basic class at NCETR in Huntsville, Alabama in July. Selected technicians had to be currently HDS certified and were required to be sponsored by the head of their agencies.

The following State and Local technicians were selected and are now participating in the CES program:

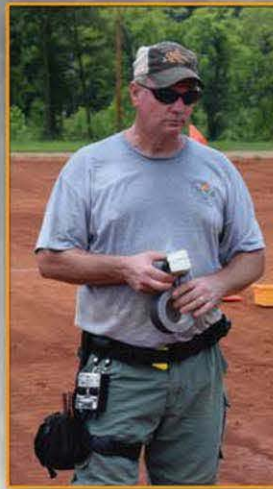
- Eastern Region
 - o Shajahan Jagtiani, Prince George's County Fire Department
 - o Caroll Spriggs, Annapolis Fire Department
- Western Region: Western Region:
 - o Kurt Peterson, Denver PD
 - o Billy Denham, Phoenix PD
- Southern Region
 - o Al Mattox, Alabama Law Enforcement Agency
 - o Kevin Jordan, South Carolina Law Enforcement Department (SLED)
- Central Region
 - o Steven Caballero, Milwaukee PD
 - o Michael Tucker, Denton (TX) Fire Department

The CES program is a two-year candidacy designed to enhance the skills of ATF Special Agents and develop a cadre of expert witnesses to perform investigations into explosions, bombings, and post-blast scenes and conduct disposals of commercial and homemade explosives. These skills are taught so they can carry out ATF's explosives mission as well as assist other agencies at bombing and explosion scenes and offer other investigative resources as they pertain to the violation of explosives laws.

They must also become proficient at sharing their skills with others. As the subject matter experts, they will be called on to train ATF personnel, as well as a variety of other government and industry members. By sharing their knowledge and skills, particularly with local law enforcement agencies that might not otherwise have access to this kind of training, they increase explosives awareness and enable these agencies to respond to explosives incidents in a manner that is safer for the responder as well as bystanders.

After completing the three-week CES Basic Course at the NCETR which included 9 range days that involved hands-on demolition techniques utilizing commercial and military explosive products, studies and reviews of large-scale explosive accidents, and disposal operations, the CES candidates are required to successfully complete the following training within the next two years: Post Blast Investigation; Advanced Explosives Disposal Techniques; Homemade Explosives - Identification, Process, and Disposal; the Chemistry of Explosives and Energetic Materials at Oklahoma State University, the Advanced Ordnance Recognition for Law Enforcement (AORLE) at Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), and the ISEE Blasters' Level I course. In addition, candidates must complete 12 graduate-level credit hours which results in the award of a Certificate in Explosives Engineering/Technology. All of this training is fully funded by ATF.





During the initial certification program, candidates are also required to participate in explosives-related investigations, disposal operations, and explosives demonstrations. These are opportunities to put their new skills to good use, while allowing trainers to assess candidates in action. This “apprenticeship” helps candidates begin building the networks they will need to succeed as a CES.

Once certified, CES’s are required to keep up on current trends and continually update their knowledge of commercial, military, and homemade explosives, as well as destructive devices. They need to follow the politics of explosives, remaining aware of regulatory changes and how that impacts their roles and responsibilities.





Contingent on continued funding, the ATF NCETR staff looks forward to offering this opportunity to eight state and local bomb technicians annually and hopes to expand the number of slots offered.

Any questions or inquiries about this program can be directed to CES Program Manager Hugh.o'connor@atf.gov or Explosive Enforcement Branch Chief william.joa@atf.gov.

